

# PEOPLE & THINGS

ONE of the most remarkable women in the world arrives in London today. She is Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, India's new High Commissioner, and she will be the first woman ever to head a diplomatic mission in Britain.

She recently relinquished the Presidency of the United Nations, being the first woman to occupy that exalted position, and earlier she was the first woman Minister in her home State of Uttar Pradesh, and India's first woman ambassador to Moscow and Washington.

At 54, and a grandmother many times over, Mrs. Pandit is a woman of great beauty and charm. Her true first name, still used in private by her brother, Pandit Nehru, the Prime Minister of India, but unknown to the rest of the world is "Swarup" meaning "beautiful face".

Mrs. Pandit was miserable in Moscow, where the Russians were indifferent to her, and she had difficulties in Washington, where her country's foreign policy was little understood and the subject of much ill-informed criticism. I think she need have no qualms today. London is certain to take this wonderful woman to its heart.

## Orderly House

THE dinner given by the Beefsteak to M. Massiga was not only a compliment to a great ambassador, but also a rare occasion in the history of this ancient and highly distinguished luncheon and dining club. It has now a weekly guest night, but in its great days no guest ever entered its door and conversation was free.

A story, today perhaps a little embroidered, but substantially true, is attached to the Beefsteak.

The premises in Irving Street can hardly be described as aristocratic. The entrance is a modest door between shops dealing in sex literature and medical appliances. Just after the turn of the century the premises were raided by plainclothes men. Looking for something different, they rushed upstairs where they found three elderly gentlemen sitting by themselves.

"Your names and addresses, please," said the senior detective. The nearest man spoke first: "I am the Belgian envoy."

"And you, Sir?"

"I am the Speaker of the House of Commons."

The detective, turning to the last of the trio, said sarcastically: "And I suppose you're the Prime Minister of England!"

"As a matter of fact," said Mr. A. J. Balfour with languid indifference, "I am."

## IL McKenzie

PRESIDENT PERON is giving himself a Christmas present of a new McKenzie tartan tie and scarf and these articles of apparel have just been despatched to him from a London store.

It appears that the President claims a grandmother who was a true McKenzie from over the border, and he is intensely proud of his Scottish ancestry. He often wears the McKenzie tie, and he takes a lively interest in the Scottish clans, their tartans, and, of course, their cattle.

## Gracious Gifts

THERE will be some interesting Christmas presents exchanged in America this week. Here is a

## By ATTICUS

selection, quoted verbatim, from the catalogues.

(1) Tension Remover Easy Chair. For executives who don't have the time for massages after business hours. Operated by electricity. One can actually get a massage and conduct business without anyone being the wiser. Chinese red, sage or hunter green. \$385.

(2) Why buy pyjama tops when you just wear bottoms? or vice versa? We feature these individually packaged sleep-pajamas in blue, gray, green, maize. Save waste. Save space. (No price.)

(3) Wide-Awake Glasses. Let you sleep in public secretly. Each definitive type of eyes is imprinted on the glasses, which have elegant tortoise shell plastic frames. Tiny periscopes to see through. Choice of three eye types: (a) Cool intellectual. (b) Eager Beaver. (c) Shy, demure. \$200.

(4) A cheerful "Good Morning" branded light on the toast. This novel gadget brands toast, muffins, cakes, with a greeting that is sure to start the day right. \$195.



(5) For sophisticated beds. Artfully inscribed pillow cases, elegant and scalloped, of Wamsutta Supercalc. A joy to own and a fresh thought for a unique and expressive gift. Boxed in palra. Choice of chuckle-provoking sentiments, e.g., "Hit the Hay," "This Ain't Hay." \$6.95 per pair.

(6) Swiss Musical Door Chimes ring a song of greeting. Choice of "Home Sweet Home," "Adeste Fideles," or "Hotchkiss." Gold finish. \$4.95.

(7) The Snore Mask Helmet. Keeps jaws closed and prevents snoring caused by open-mouth breathing. Elastic weave. \$250.

## The Ur-Pudding

I WONDER who will eat the oldest Christmas pudding this week? A winner may come from the fifteenth-century Spread Eagle Hotel, Midhurst, where vintage '38 puddings are among those which hang from the beams of the dining room.

The proprietor, Mr. Gibson, tells me that he ate a '38 pudding last year and that "it was back as my telephone, but remarkably mellow with all the ingredients beautifully blended."

Mr. Gibson inherited these Stone Age puddings from his predecessor, a Captain Freemantle, together with a secret recipe which stipulates the use of large quantities of Five Star brandy and best barley wine.

## Humpf!

"SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA is the only place in the world where a twentieth-century Christmas, with modern outdoor decorations, is held in a setting and a climate identical with the First Christmas.

Los Angeles, on the thirty-third parallel, is in the same latitude as Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee. Jerusalem and Bethlehem are a few degrees to the

South, roughly parallel to the City of San Diego.

"In both the Holy Land and in Southern California, the mild subtropical winter months permit shepherds to tend their flocks by night and residents to enjoy the beauty of Christmas celebrations out of doors." (Press release from "All-Year Club of Southern California," quoted by the "New Yorker.")

## Big Feast and . . .

CHRISTMAS recipes are apt to be too expensive and elaborate, or too commonplace.

To suit the extreme wings of gastronomic enterprise here are two recipes, one for the tsar and one for the moujik.

Take one Spanish olive. Prepare for roasting and season inside with salt and pepper, a pheasant, a partridge, a woodcock, a quail, and an ortolan. Stuff the olive into the ortolan, the ortolan into the quail, the quail into the woodcock, the woodcock into the partridge, the partridge into the pheasant. Wrap the pheasant in thin slices of bacon and roast fairly quickly for fifty minutes. Ten minutes before the end, remove the bacon so that the pheasant is nicely browned. Then carve and devour.

## . . . little Feast

MARY CRICKMERE'S Garlic Bread: cut a French roll (Lyons have them) three-quarters through into one-inch slices. Butter well both sides of each slice and between each slice insert sliver of garlic. Bake in oven until crisp and hot. Cut through slices remove garlic slivers and eat hot. Sensational!

## Lingua Franca

THOSE who will be spending Christmas in Paris and who like to be right up to date with their French slang may care to know that a 10,000 franc note is now known as "un Farouk," the 5,000 as "un demi-Farouk" and the homely 500s, bearing the grizzled features of Victor Hugo are "Les Misérables."

## Big Brother

THE PRESIDENT of the mighty International Business Machine Company of America decided that it would smarten up his staff if he signs commanding "THINK" hung up in all his offices. Search is now proceeding for the rebel who, under cover of darkness, wrote "OR THWIM" on the bottom of each of them.

## Stop Press

FLASH NEW YORK SATURDAY stop atticus your forecast miss rheingold winner last september correct stop announced today shes redeemed nancy woodruff runnerup in beer derby 1952 and miss antifreeze 1953 ENDS